



# Illinois Department of Natural Resources

One Natural Resources Way Springfield, Illinois 62702-1271  
<http://dnr.state.il.us>

Pat Quinn, Governor  
Marc Miller, Director

August 5, 2013

Mr. Dennis Held  
Village President  
Village of Raymond  
PO Box 87  
Raymond, IL 62560

Ms. Patrice Boehler  
Westmore Group Inc  
1415 Elbridge Payne Rd  
STE 285  
Chesterfield, MO 63017

**Re: Dollar General Construction - Village of Raymond**  
**Endangered Species Consultation Program**  
**Project Number(s): 1401143**  
**County: Montgomery**

Dear Mr. Held and Ms. Boehler:

This letter concerns the Endangered Species Consultation for this project located in Section 7, Township 10N, Range 4W, submitted by Village of Raymond, on behalf of Westmore Group Inc, for consultation in accordance with the *Illinois Endangered Species Protection Act* [520 ILCS 10/11], the *Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act* [525 ILCS 30/17], and Title 17 *Illinois Administrative Code* Part 1075.

The project involves the construction of a 9,100 square foot retail building, to include a parking lot, utilities, and detention basin. The state-listed endangered **Barn Owl** (*Tyto alba*) is known to occur in the vicinity of the project area, and records exist to the east of this project site, and within the village limits.

The Department has completed its review of the project and determined that the action may have an adverse impact on potential nesting Barn Owls. To minimize potential impacts, the Department recommends the Village of Raymond incorporate the following measures in its project authorization.

## **Barn Owl (*Tyto alba*)**

This species prefers to inhabit pastureland, dairy farms, hay fields, marshes and rural towns where suitable hunting habitat is available and commonly hunts along fence rows, wetland edges and in fields.

Barn owls nest in cavities found within trees, grain silos, barn lofts, church steeples, holes in cliffs or river banks, and man-made boxes. Changing agricultural practices in the Midwest appear most likely to have contributed to population declines over the last two decades. While late spring-early summer is the peak of nesting activity, incubation and brood rearing can occur during any month of the year in Illinois. If resources are abundant (such as mice and voles) then the owls are able to produce two clutches of eggs a year: a spring brood (March – July) and a late summer, early fall brood. A nesting pair of owls may reuse the same nesting site each year, so it is important to understand where nests are located in order not to disturb them. Nests can be occupied for approximately three months after eggs are laid, and fledglings can be encountered at or near base of nest trees even longer.

*Recommendation #1.* All on-site personnel involved in the project, including construction staff, should be educated on how to recognize this species. Color photos (of adults and juveniles), educational materials, and a plan for responding to potential encounters should be discussed in a training session and at the preconstruction site meeting(s).

*Recommendation #2.* Construction activities for a site such as this present an added risk of injury or death to fledglings as they learn to fly near their base tree. These owls prefer Silver Maples (as found near the east border of the project footprint), but will use other cavity trees. Once build-out is complete, management should also be educated about the species, be aware that they may be present, and be instructed on what to do if any owls are encountered on the property or in the parking lot. If any Barn Owls are encountered on or near the project's footprint, work should stop, and the IDNR District Heritage Biologist (Mark Phipps, 618-363-5818) should immediately be contacted, *keeping in mind it is a criminal act for anyone to handle or move a listed species unless Incidental Take Authorization has been permitted.* Personnel on site should watch the species until the proper authority arrives to handle the situation.

*Recommendation #3.* If any trees must be removed, contact Mark Phipps to make him aware of the removal day, and request his presence in the event any Barn Owls are encountered during the removal of the tree(s).

Consultation under 17 Ill. Adm. Code Part 1075 is terminated. In accordance with 17 Ill. Adm. Code 1075.40(h), the Village of Raymond must notify the Department of its decision regarding these recommendations, whether they will:

- Allow the action to proceed as originally planned;
- Require the action to be modified per Department recommendations (please specify which measures, if not all, will be required); or
- Forgo the action.

Consultation for Part 1075 is valid for two years unless new information becomes available that was not previously considered; the proposed action is modified; or additional species, essential habitat, or Natural Areas are identified in the vicinity. If the project has not been implemented within two years of the date of this letter, or any of the above listed conditions develop, a new consultation is necessary.

The natural resource review reflects the information existing in the Illinois Natural Heritage Database at the time of the project submittal, and should not be regarded as a final statement on the site being considered, nor should it be a substitute for detailed site surveys or field surveys required for

environmental assessments. If additional protected resources are encountered during the project's implementation, you must comply with the applicable statutes and regulations. Also, note that termination does not imply IDNR's authorization or endorsement of the proposed action.

Please contact me if you have questions regarding this review.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sheldon R. Fairfield". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sheldon" and last name "Fairfield" being more legible than the middle initial "R".

Sheldon R. Fairfield  
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